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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 614
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Middle Tennessee State University Running Back Dwone Hicks upon being named the Sun Belt Conference's Offensive Player of the Year for 2001.

WHEREAS, it is fitting for this General Assembly to honor those exceptional young people who display diligence, determination and exceptional skill in the realm of athletics; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee State University Running Back Dwone Hicks has shown such athletic prowess, and has been named the Sun Belt Conference's 2001 Offensive Player of the Year by the coaches of the Sun Belt Conference; and

WHEREAS, during the 2001 season Dwone Hicks' exceptional skills propelled him to 1,143 yards rushing, which ranked 25th nationally, on 191 carries, for an impressive six-yards-per-carry average; and

WHEREAS, his tremendous rushing efforts resulted in him scoring an astonishing 20 touchdowns ranking him second nationally at 13.5 points scored per game; and

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WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks' versatility was further evidenced by his 18 receptions for 230 yards and four touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, his singular rushing ability, coupled with his skill as a receiver, vaulted Dwone Hicks to 31st nationally in all-purpose yards for the 2001 season; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks further proved himself to be a tremendous football player by leading the Sun Belt Conference in rushing, scoring, and touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks was an integral part of MTSU's outstanding record of eight wins and three losses; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks' talents were displayed in exciting fashion in a victory against Vanderbilt University, as he compiled 203 yards rushing, the 12th best single game mark for the 2001 season, and four touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks earned numerous honors throughout the 2001 season, including being nominated as a candidate for the prestigious Doak Walker Award, which honors the nation's top collegiate running back; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks was also selected as the Sun Belt Conference's Offensive Player of the Week for September 3, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the *College Football News* further acknowledged his ability by naming him the Player of the Week for the weeks of September 1 and September 24; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks was named the USA Today.com Player of the Week for the weeks of September 1, September 22, and November 17; and

WHEREAS, he was further acclaimed as the *College Football News* Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and Sun Belt Conference Offensive Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks' superb skill was documented by *Sports Illustrated*, when he was named as a dark horse candidate for the Heisman Trophy in the magazine's September 24th issue; and

WHEREAS, Dwone Hicks has had an extraordinary career at MTSU. After completing his Junior season, he holds the school records in total points scored, with 292, and touchdowns, with 48; and

WHEREAS, not only is Dwone Hicks an outstanding athlete, he is also a young man of exceptional character and displays a tremendous work ethic; and

WHEREAS, these qualities were recognized by MTSU Head Football Coach Andy McCollum in the following statement, "I have not seen a better back. He has all the tools including a work ethic second to none. But what I like most about Dwone is character and how humble a person he is. Dwone always puts his team first"; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in the outstanding combination of athletic ability and character embodied by Dwone Hicks; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Middle Tennessee State University Running Back Dwone Hicks upon being named the Sun Belt Conference's Offensive Player of the Year for 2001 and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for Dwone Hicks with this final clause omitted from such copy.